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SECRET

NSC BRIEFING 28 January 1954

INDOCHINA

I. French expect attack Dien Bien Phu by 30 January.

A. VM numerical advantage.

B. French worried VM firepower.

C. Rumors heavier artillery.

D. VM may try only probing attacks.

E. Alternative Northern Laos.

II. French request more US air aid.

A. Retain 12 C-119's.

B. Reinforce two B-26 groups, add 25 more for third group.

C. 400 US ground personnel.

D. Comment -- French always short ground personnel, but C-119 unsuitable Indochina.

DOCUMENT NO.
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
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III. Operation in southern Annam to clear coast.

A. French occupied Tuy Hoa 20 January.

B. In current operational area, some 18,000 French Union troops versus estimated 5,600 VM regulars.

C. French hope eventually clear 250-mile coastal strip Nha Trang to Tourane. In whole area, VM regulars total some 14,000.

D. Unless permanently occupied, VM will return.

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